THE UNCANNY INHUMANS™

#17

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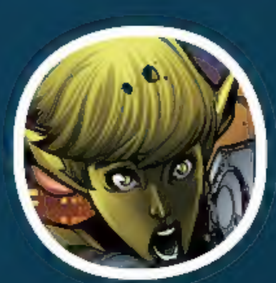
Thousands of years ago aliens experimented on cavemen, supercharging their evolution, and then mysteriously left their experiments behind. These men and women built the city of Attilan and discovered a chemical called Terrigen that unlocked secret super-powers in their modified DNA, making them...

THE UNCANNY INHUMANS

MEDUSA

BLACK BOLT

IRELLE


AURAN

TRESTE

FRANK McGEE

FLAGMAN

Some time ago, Black Bolt, the Inhuman king, detonated a bomb in the heart of the floating city of Attilan, destroying the city and releasing Terrigen Mist——the catalyst that triggers powers in Inhumans——into Earth's atmosphere.

After the explosion, many Inhumans went missing, including Black Bolt. Queen Medusa enlisted Inhuman investigator Auran and her partner, Frank McGee, a former N.Y.C. cop, to find the king and bring him home. The duo found Black Bolt, but while trying to apprehend him, Auran was fatally injured.

Auran's twin daughters have enlisted Reader, an Inhuman who can read anything into reality, to read a book of memories about their mother and bring her back. But something is wrong. She's not herself, and upon seeing Black Bolt, the newly reborn Auran struck out and somehow stole his power.

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DON'T MAKE A SOUND.
NOT A WORD, NOT A COUGH, NOT A WHISPER.
NOT A SOUND.
IF YOU DO...

THE QUIET ROOM.

...EVERYONE HERE WILL DIE.

INCLUDING YOUR *DAUGHTERS.*

YOU STOLE THE POWER OF MY VOICE, AURAN. I DON'T KNOW HOW, AND I WISH YOU HADN'T, BUT THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT NOW.

THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS IS *STAYING QUIET.* IT WILL NOT BE EASY, BUT YOU *MUST.*

I CAN HELP YOU--I'VE CREATED CERTAIN *TECHNIQUES.* STAY CALM, AND *LISTEN.*

DO NOT THINK IN WORDS. THINK IN *IMAGES.* THERE IS NOTHING WORDS CAN SAY THAT AN IMAGE CANNOT.

THIS WORLD IS A LOUD, CLANGING PLACE. THERE IS ACHIEVEMENT--*PRIDE*--IN SETTING YOURSELF APART FROM ALL THAT *VOLUME.* SILENCE...IS TRANSCENDENCE.

TO THE WORLD, YOU ARE YOUR *SHADOW.*

YOU ARE SNOWFALL, AN HOUR BEFORE THE DAWN.

YOU ARE A LOCKED ROOM, AND THERE IS NO KEY.

YOU ARE *SILENT.* DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

READER. McGEE. COORDINATE AN EVACUATION OF THE QUIET ROOM. THEN SEND WORD TO THE CITY AUTHORITIES--CLEAR EVERYTHING AROUND THIS BUILDING.

HOW LARGE AN AREA, BLACK BOLT?

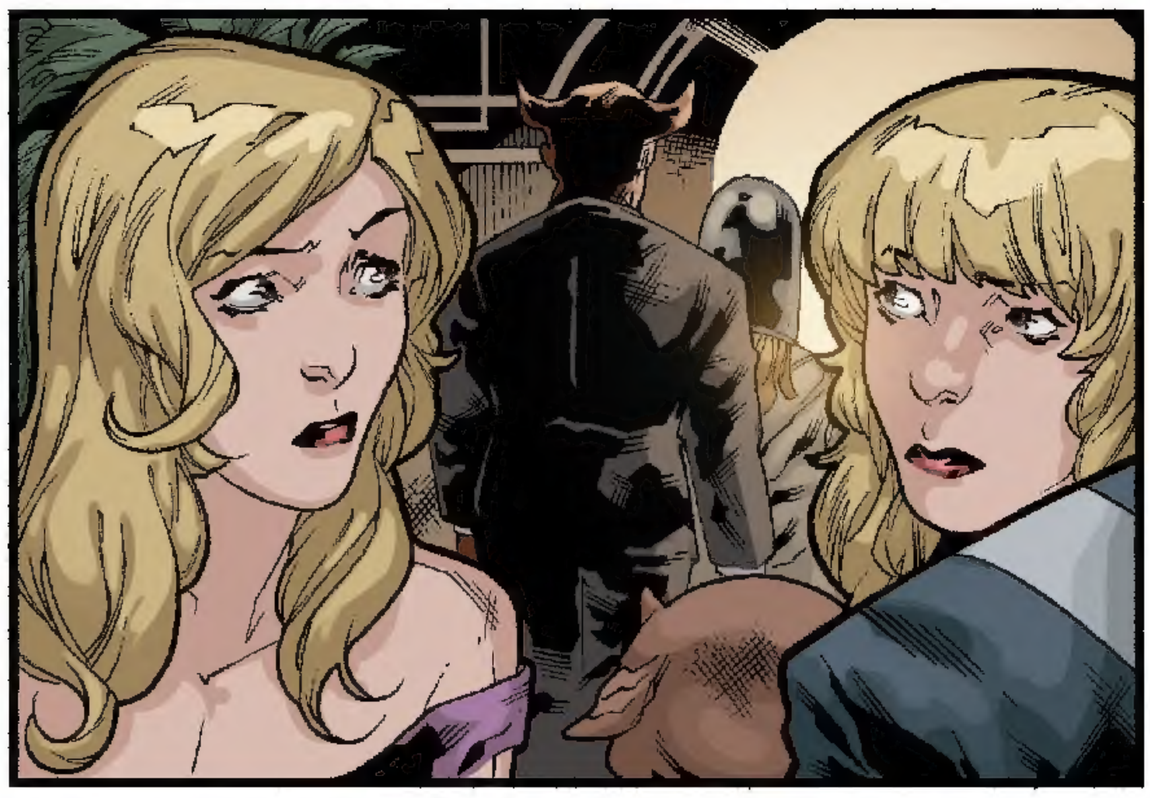
IF THEY CAN...

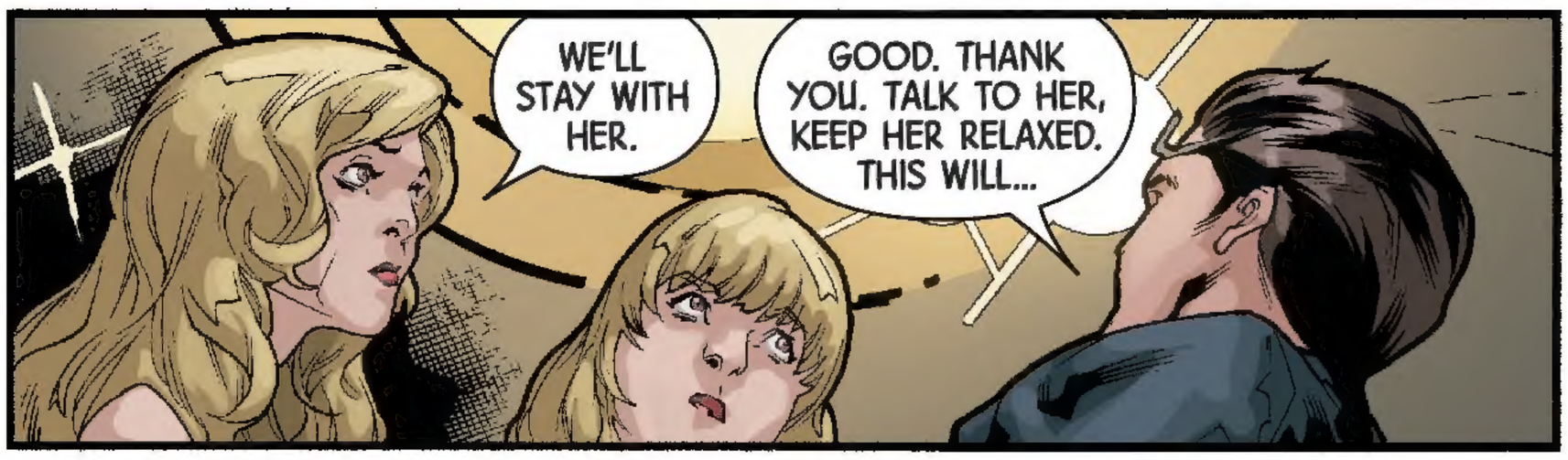
...ALL OF IT.

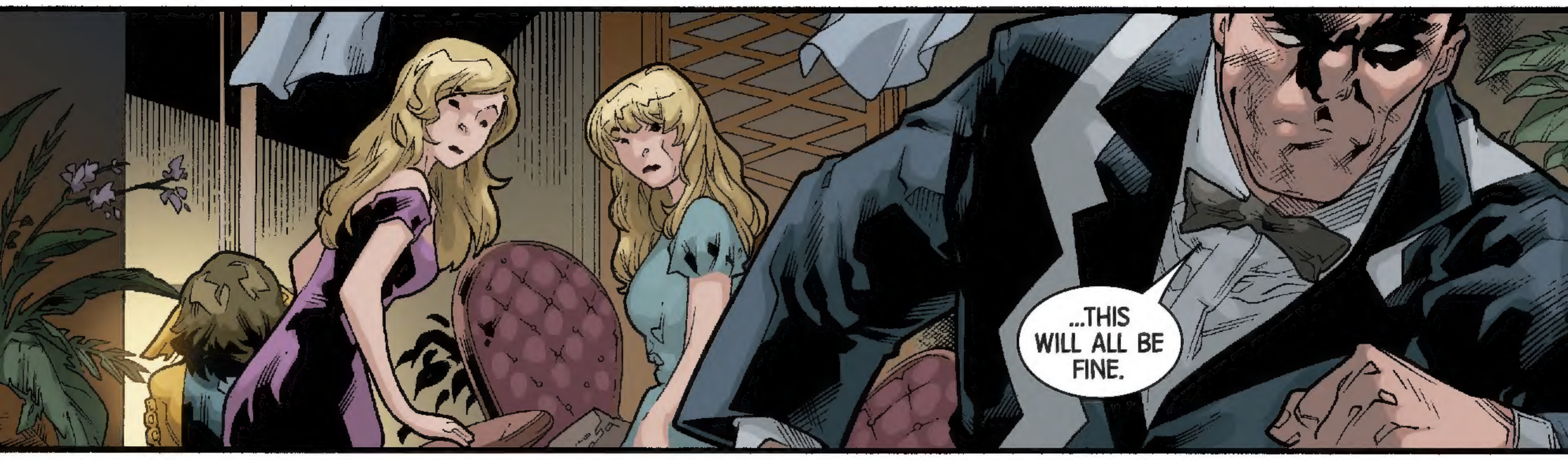
TRESTE, IRELLE. I AM SO SORRY TO ASK, BUT I NEED YOUR HELP.
OF COURSE, BLACK BOLT. WHAT CAN WE DO?

YOUR MOTHER WILL SPEAK, OR MAKE SOME OTHER SOUND. IT'S INEVITABLE. I SPENT *YEARS* LEARNING TO CONTROL MY POWER. SHE'S HAD IT FOR LESS THAN A MINUTE.
WE NEED TO PUT THAT MOMENT OFF AS LONG AS WE CAN.
I THINK IT WILL BE EASIER FOR HER TO CONTROL HERSELF...

...IF SHE IS REMINDED OF WHAT SHE WILL LOSE IF SHE DOESN'T.




WE'LL STAY WITH HER.
GOOD. THANK YOU. TALK TO HER, KEEP HER RELAXED. THIS WILL...


...THIS WILL ALL BE FINE.

CLUB'S ALMOST EMPTY, BOSS, AND McGEE NOTIFIED THE CITY. THEY'RE MOVING PEOPLE OUT OF THE AREA NOW.
WHAT NEXT?
TRESTE AND IRELLE WILL STAY WITH AURAN--TRY TO KEEP HER FROM SPEAKING.
SHE'LL SLIP, THOUGH--COULD HAPPEN AT ANY MOMENT.

I HAVE A PLAN--BUT I NEED *TIME*. I NEED *YOU* TO BUY ME THAT TIME.
OH, MAN, BLACK BOLT--I'VE NEVER TRIED TO CONTAIN SOMETHING LIKE...I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I *COULD*.

IT'S YOUR CHOICE, FLAGMAN. I WON'T ASK YOU TO DO IT IF YOU AREN'T SURE.
NO...I'LL DO IT. IF IT'LL SAVE SOME PEOPLE...SURE. I'LL DO IT.
THANK YOU. GOOD LUCK. I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN.

ALL RIGHT. LET'S WRAP THIS UP.

NEW ATTILAN.
HOW GO THE REPAIRS TO THE CITY FROM THE DAMAGE WE TOOK IN STARK'S ATTACK?*
PROGRESSING WELL, MY QUEEN. WE ANTICIPATE MOST SYSTEMS WILL BE RUNNING AT FULL CAPACITY WITHIN A WEEK.
"MOST"?
*SEE UNCANNY INHUMANS #11-14 --WIL!
YES. FIXING THE EXTERNAL DEFENSE SYSTEM HAS PROVEN COMPLEX. WE'RE NOT EXACTLY SURE WHAT MAXIMUS DID TO IT.
WE'LL GET THERE, BUT...WE'RE NOT THERE YET.
MAXIMUS. UGH.
ALL RIGHT. HAVE FRANK McGEE ASSIGN MORE GUARDS TO THE EXTERIOR FOR THE TIME BEING. THEN WE'LL--
OH, MY.
YOUR MAJESTY-- I APOLOGIZE FOR THE INTERRUPTION...BUT I THINK...I THINK SOMEONE OUTSIDE WISHES A WORD.

ER...SO TO SPEAK.
HELLO, MEDUSA.
LEAVE US.
OF COURSE, YOUR MAJESTY.

BLACK BOLT... *HOW?* HOW ARE YOU *SPEAKING?*

THERE'S A SITUATION AT THE QUIET ROOM. AURAN SOMEHOW MANAGED TO STEAL MY POWERS.

IT LEFT ME ABLE TO SPEAK, BUT IF AURAN MAKES EVEN A SINGLE SOUND...

AURAN IS *DEAD.* IF ANYONE SHOULD KNOW THAT, BLACK BOLT...IT'S *YOU.*

AFTER ALL, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO...

I KNOW. I KILLED HER. MAXIMUS HAD ME UNDER HIS CONTROL WHEN IT HAPPENED, BUT IT WAS *MY VOICE.* HE PULLED THE TRIGGER--BUT I WAS THE GUN.

AURAN KNOWS IT, TOO.

I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE'S BACK, MEDUSA. IT DOESN'T MATTER. ONLY *ONE* THING MATTERS--SHE HAS MY *VOICE.*

HER DAUGHTERS ARE WITH HER--FOR THE MOMENT, THAT'S KEEPING HER FROM SPEAKING, BUT IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.

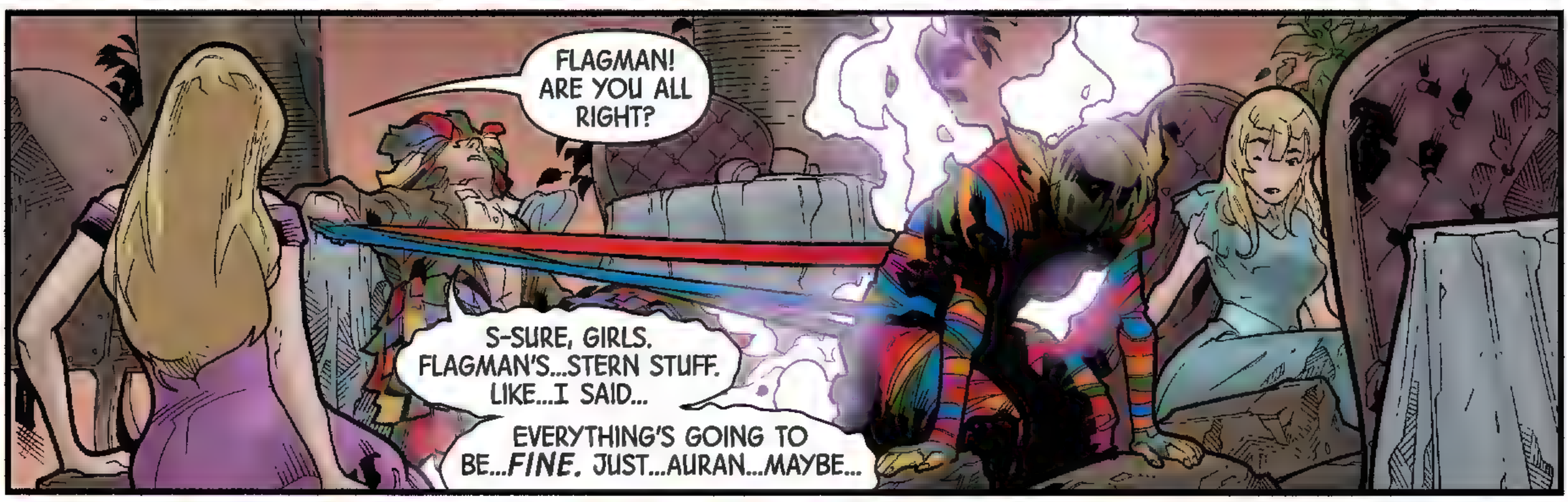
YOU LEFT HER *DAUGHTERS* WITH HER? TRESTE AND IRELLE? THEY'RE *TEENAGERS.* HOW COULD YOU *DO* THAT?

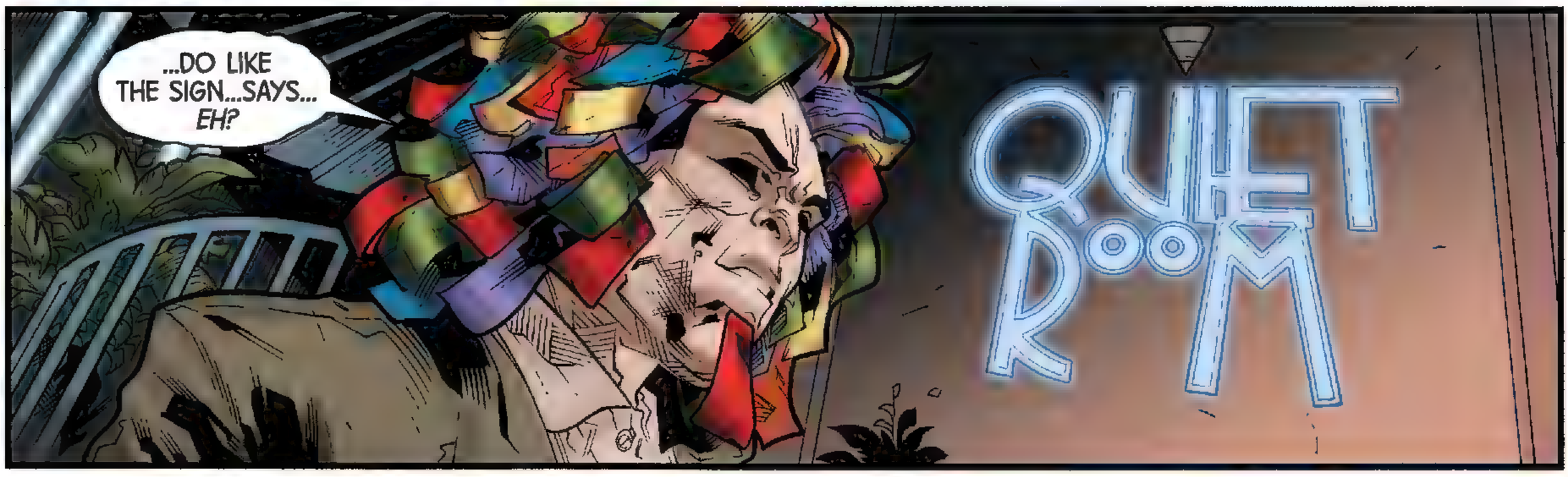
BECAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING *WRONG* WITH AURAN. I COULD SEE IT IN HER EYES. ENORMOUS TURMOIL, CONFLICT.
I THINK SHE TOOK MY VOICE SO SHE COULD *USE* IT--BUT PART OF HER DOESN'T WANT TO. HAVING HER DAUGHTERS THERE WITH HER MIGHT HELP THAT PART WIN.
BUT IF SHE *SLIPS*, HER CHILDREN WILL DIE RIGHT BEFORE HER EYES--BECAUSE OF *HER*.
SHE'LL *SNAP*, BLACK BOLT.
I KNOW. WITH THE FIRST WORD--HER CHILDREN.
THE SECOND WORD--THE QUIET ROOM. THE THIRD, THE CITY. AND THEN...WHAT REASON WOULD SHE HAVE TO STOP SPEAKING AT ALL?
I SAW TWO CHOICES, MEDUSA--KILL HER AGAIN, OR THIS. I MADE MY CHOICE.
ALL RIGHT. IT'S DONE. HOW DO WE HELP HER?
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE. WE NEED--
STERILON.

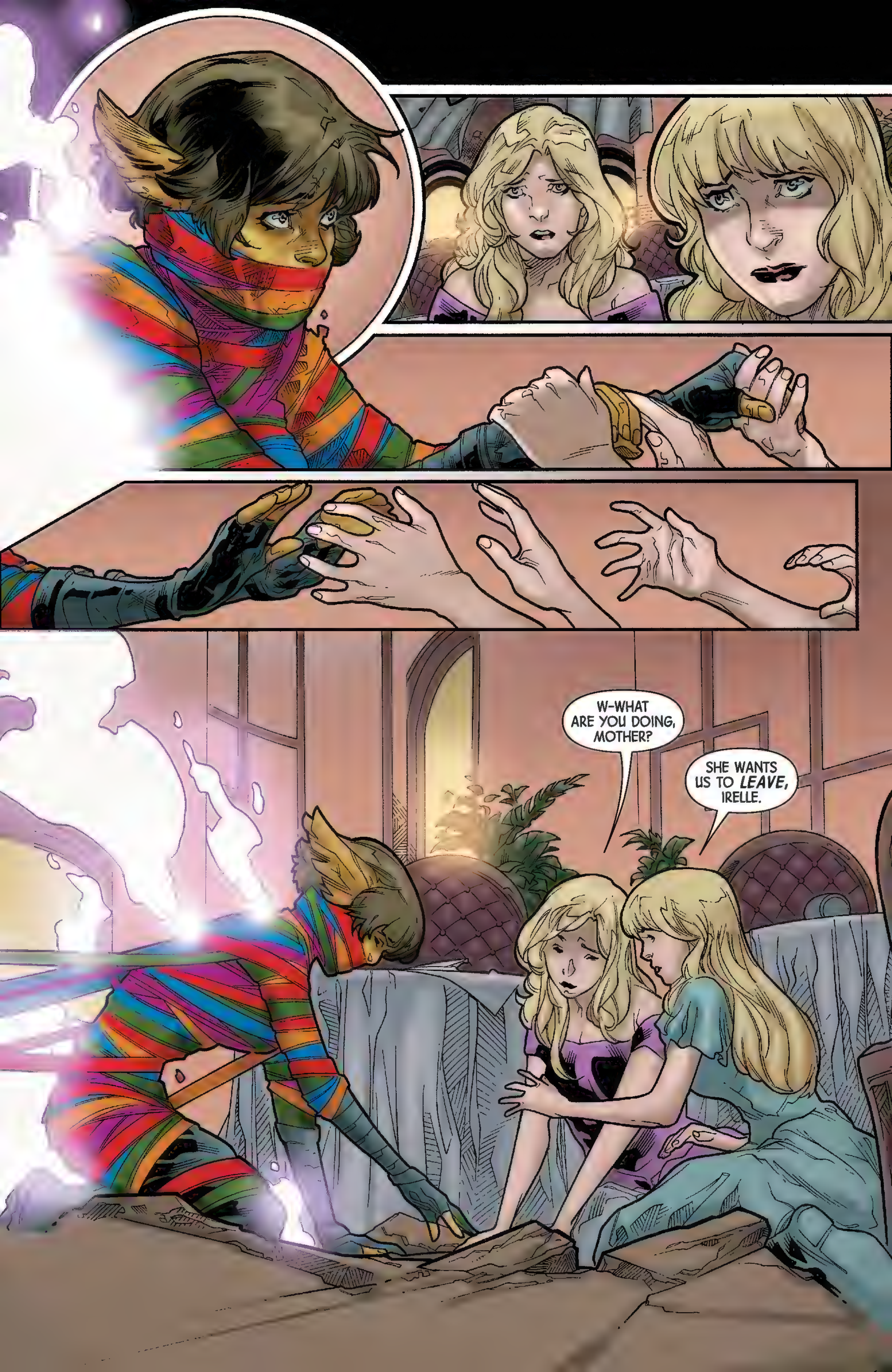
SORRY ABOUT THIS, AURAN. I'M SURE IT'S UNCOMFORTABLE FOR *BOTH* OF US.
CAN YOU REALLY CONTAIN HER VOICE?
OH, ABSOLUTELY. THE FLAGMAN'S MADE OF STERN STUFF, TRESTE.
BESIDES, BLACK BOLT'S ON IT. IF ANYONE CAN FIX ALL THIS, IT'S--
HKK

YEEEARGH!

SHHHHZAM!

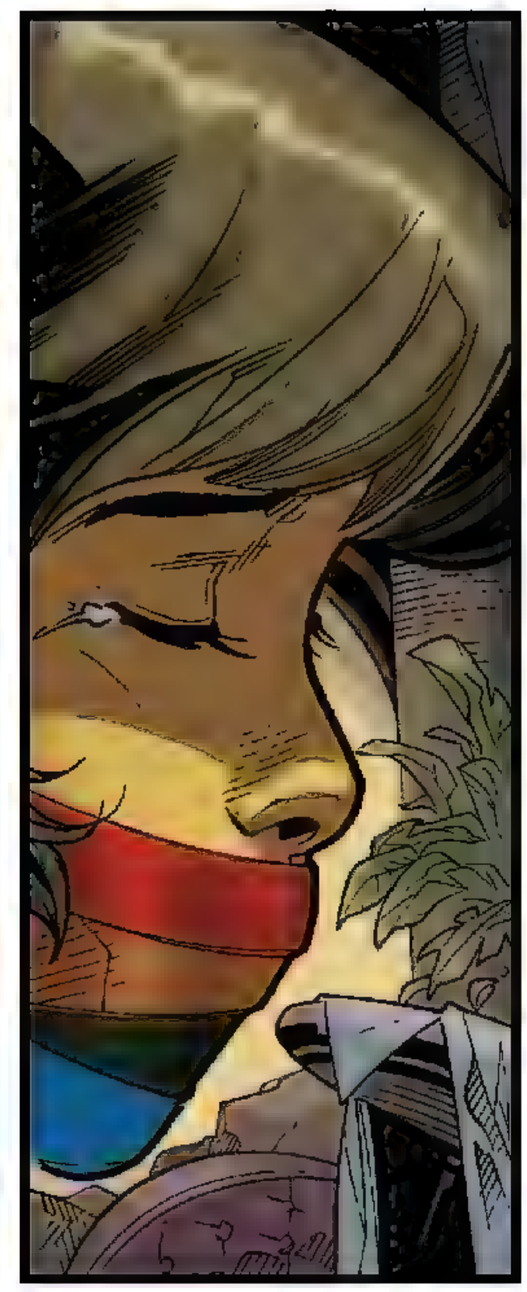


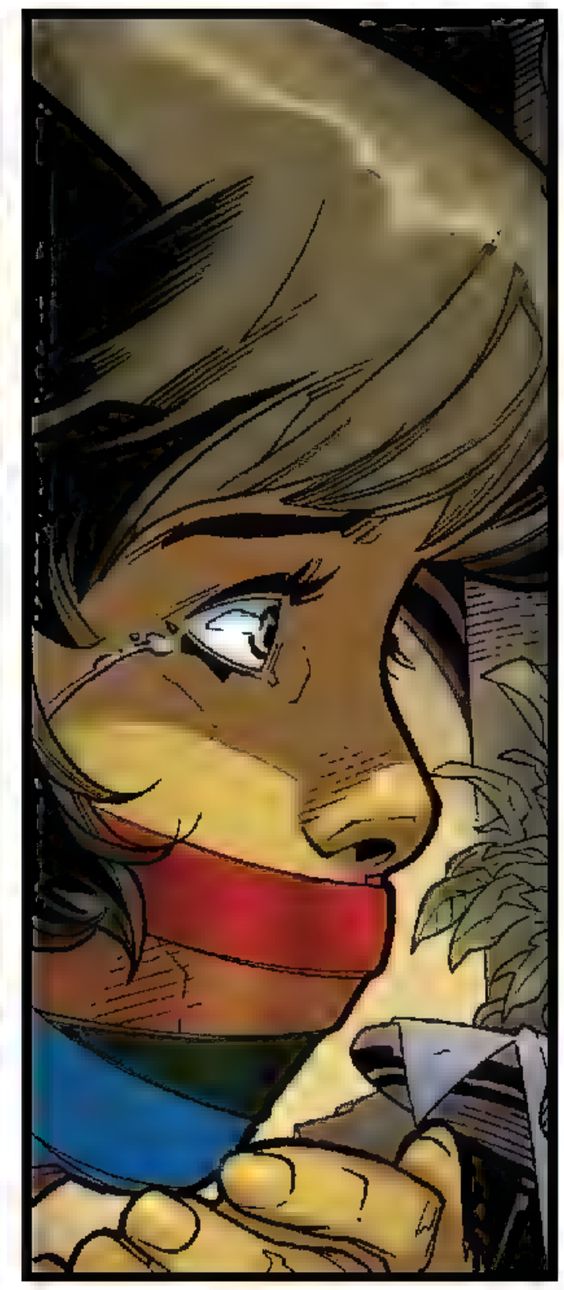



W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MOTHER?
SHE WANTS US TO *LEAVE*, IRELLE.

I THINK... THAT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA, GIRLS.
NOT SURE I...NOT SURE I CAN TAKE ANOTHER BLAST LIKE THAT.

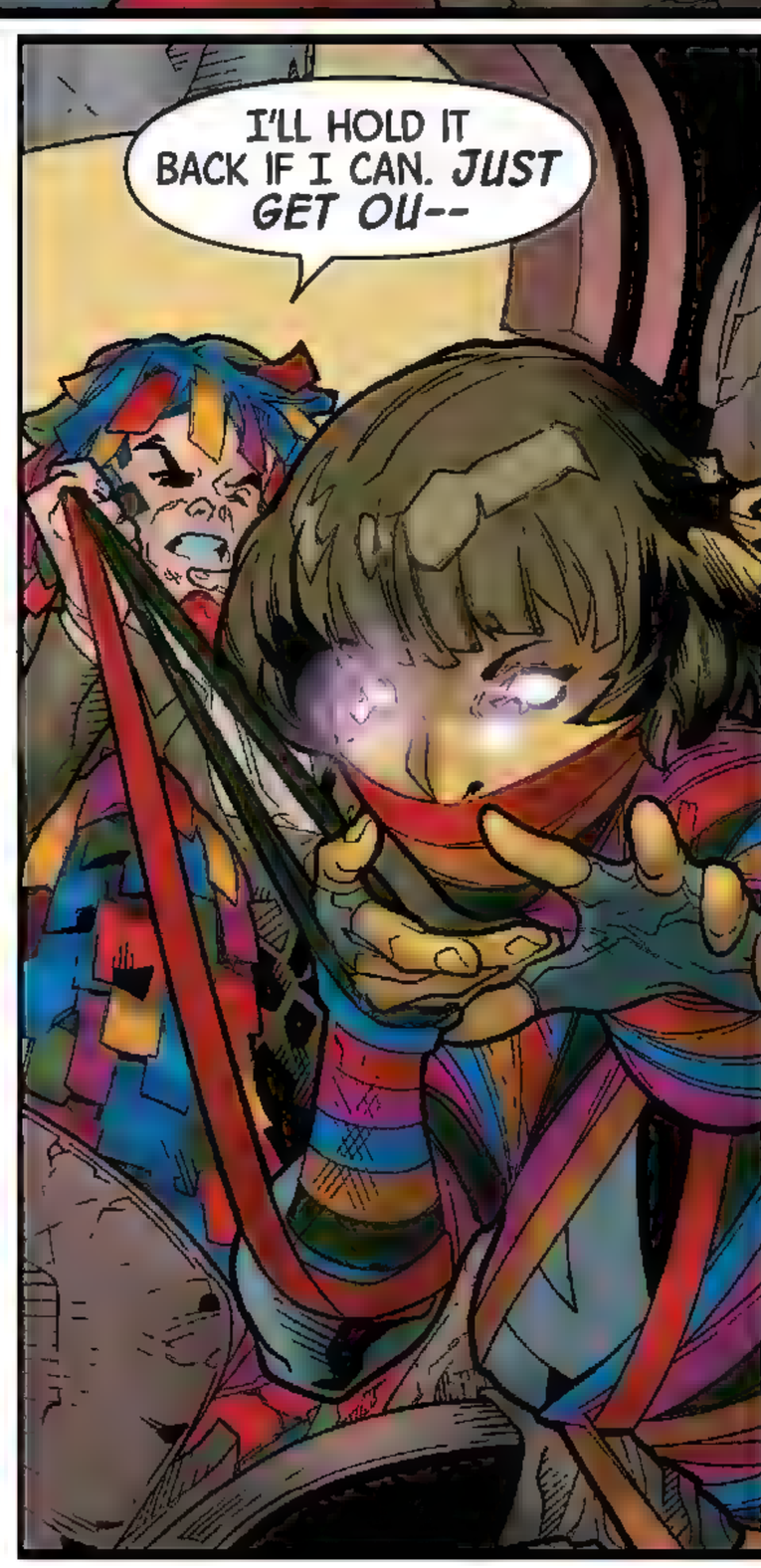
OH, TRESTE... WHAT HAVE WE *DONE?*





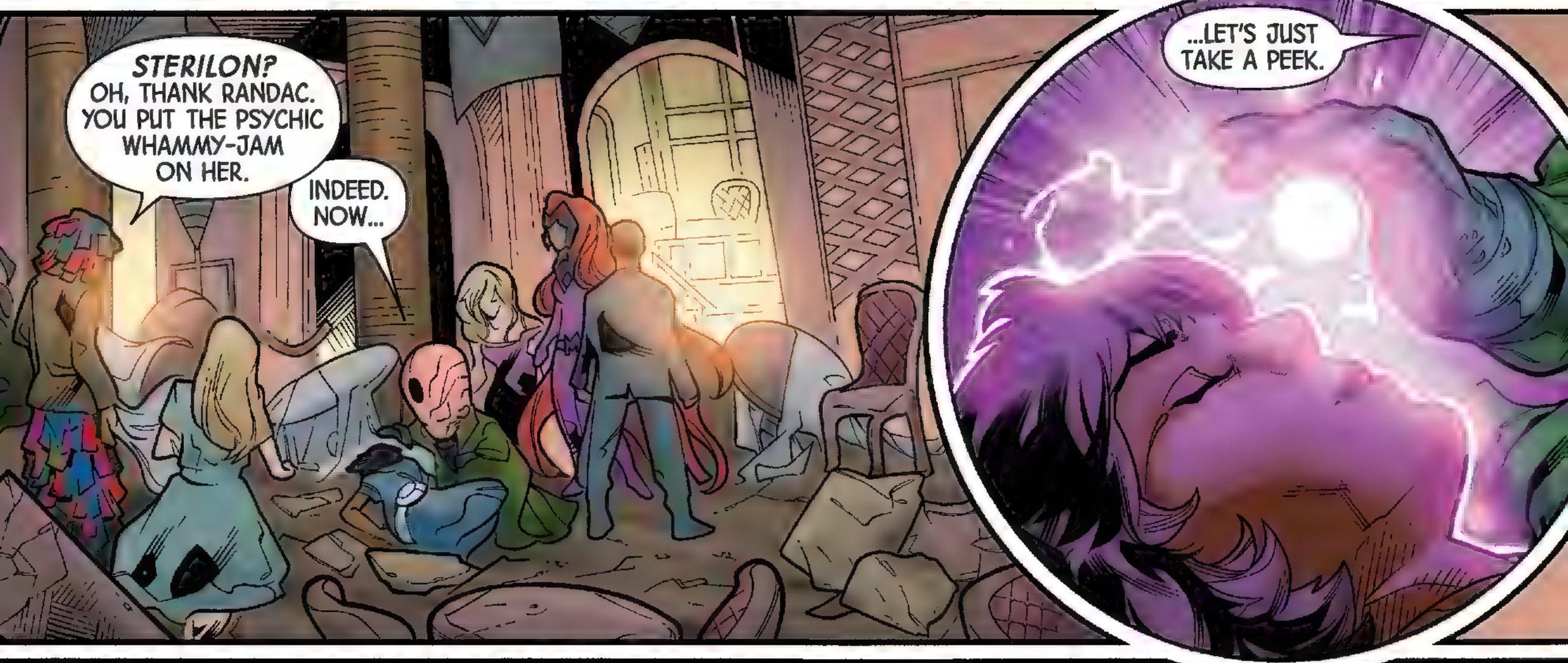
MOTHER? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHAT IS IT?
SHE'S *SHAKING*... I THINK...SHE MIGHT HAVE TO *COUGH* OR SOMETHING.

GIRLS, *RUN!*


I'LL HOLD IT BACK IF I CAN. *JUST GET OU--*

EH?

SHHH.

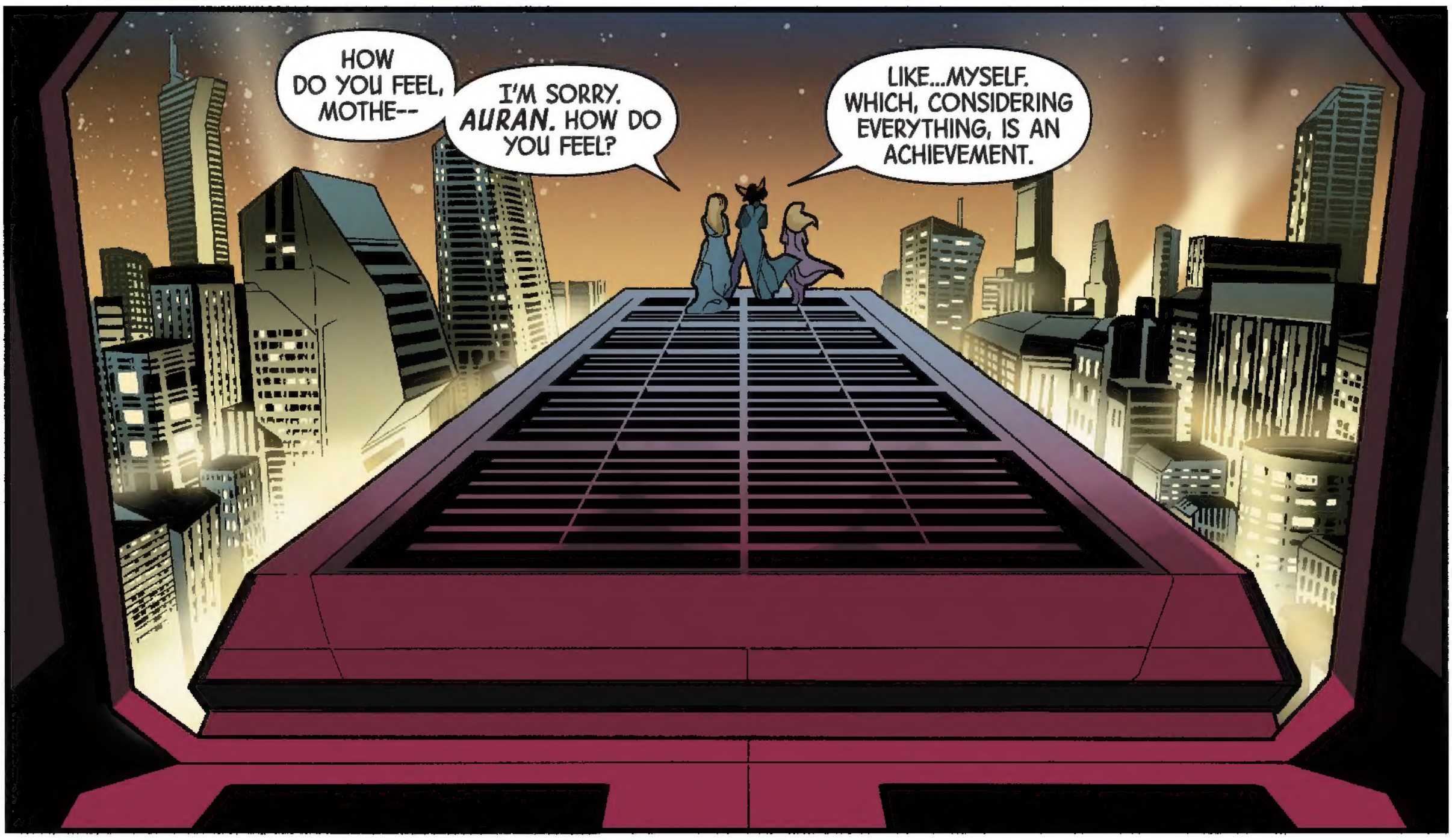

STERILON? OH, THANK RANDAC. YOU PUT THE PSYCHIC WHAMMY-JAM ON HER.
INDEED. NOW...
...LET'S JUST TAKE A PEEK.

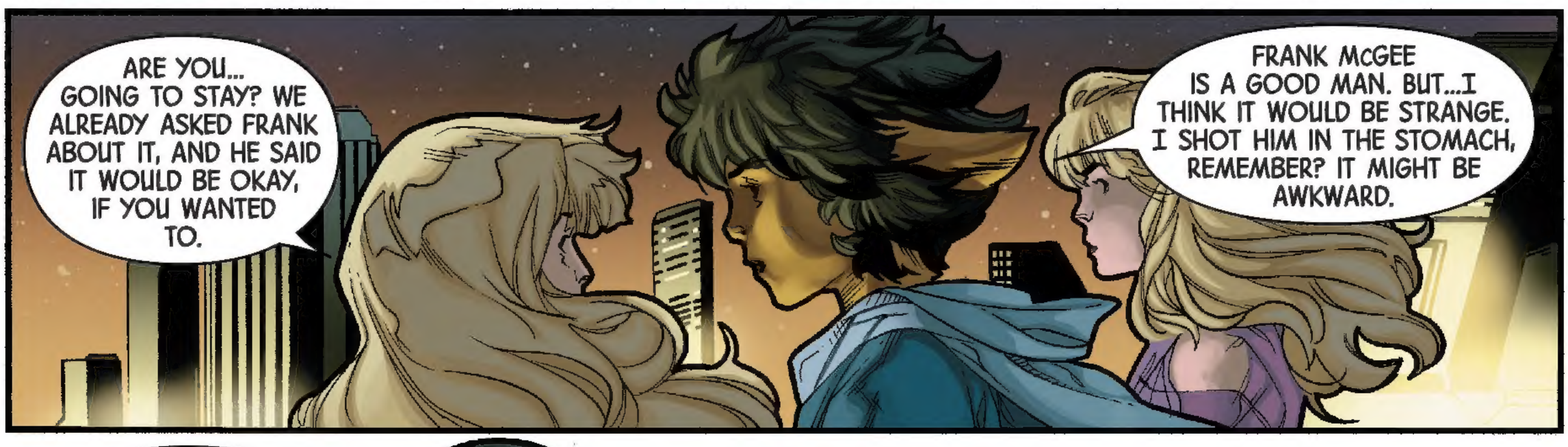
AHH. NOW I SEE.
MY DEAR... YOU SIMPLY AREN'T YOURSELF.
THERE ARE... SO MANY HOLES. I'M TOO MANY PIECES, AND THEY DON'T ALL FIT.
I CAN SEE THAT. I CAN HELP--BUT IT WILL INVOLVE... SMOOTHING YOU OVER.
ALL THE PIECES WILL FIT, BUT WHO YOU'LL BE...I CAN'T SAY.
BUT... NO MORE HOLES?
NO MORE HOLES.
OH, GOD... PLEASE.
THERE, THERE. JUST HOLD ON, AURAN. IT WON'T BE LONG.
I HAVE ONLY ONE MORE QUESTION...

...BUT IT'S NOT FOR YOU.
CAN YOU HELP HER?
YES. THIS VERSION OF AURAN SEEMS TO BE SOME SORT OF GESTALT PERSONALITY, MADE UP OF OTHER PEOPLE'S MEMORIES OF THE *OLD* AURAN. A BIT OF A HACK JOB, HONESTLY.
I CAN FIX IT, THOUGH. I'LL ADJUST HER MIND, CLOSE OFF THE INCONSISTENT BITS, KEEP HER PERSONALITIES FROM FIGHTING EACH OTHER.
AND MY *VOICE?*
WELL, THAT'S THE QUESTION. THERE'S A CHOICE HERE. AS PART OF MY WORK IN AURAN'S MIND, I CAN HAVE HER RETURN YOUR POWER TO YOU, EXACTLY AS IT WAS.
OR...
...I COULD DESTROY IT.
WHAT SHOULD I DO, BLACK BOLT?
I...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO, BLACK BOLT. YOU DON'T.
MEDUSA...IF THE WORLD LEARNS I NO LONGER HAVE MY VOICE, NEW ATTILAN WOULD BE UNDER ATTACK THE *VERY NEXT DAY.*
THE MUTANTS, OR THE SHI'AR, OR MAXIMUS, OR LASH. MY VOICE HOLDS THEM BACK. YOU KNOW THAT.
YES-- BUT IT'S NOT THE *ONLY* THING. THE INHUMANS SURVIVED FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS BEFORE YOU WERE BORN, BLACK BOLT.
YOU ARE NOT OUR ONLY LINE OF DEFENSE, AND YOU HAVE MORE TO OFFER YOUR PEOPLE THAN JUST THE POWER IN YOUR VOICE.
YOU HAVE FOUGHT FOR INHUMANITY SINCE YOU WERE A CHILD. NO ONE WOULD JUDGE YOU FOR CHOOSING FREEDOM.
THAT'S NOT TRUE, MEDUSA.
I WOULD.
DO IT. GIVE ME BACK MY VOICE.
OF COURSE. I'LL DO IT NOW.
MEDUSA. WHILE I CAN-- I WANT TO SAY ONE THING.
WHAT IS THAT?
I'M SORRY.

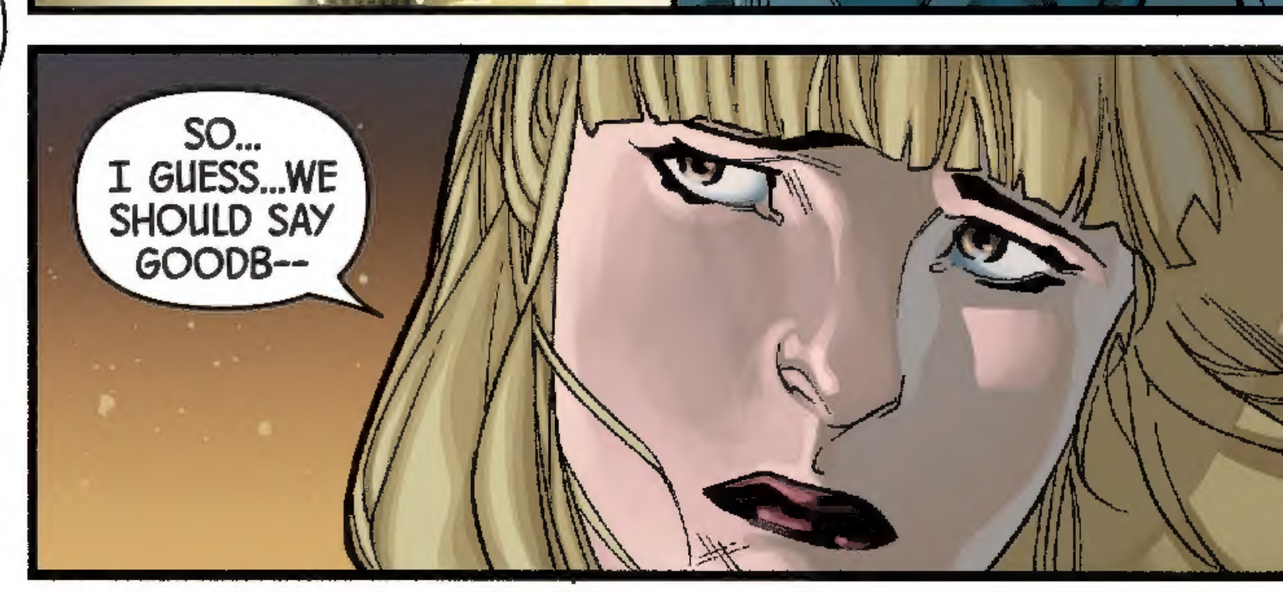
I'M... WHOLE.

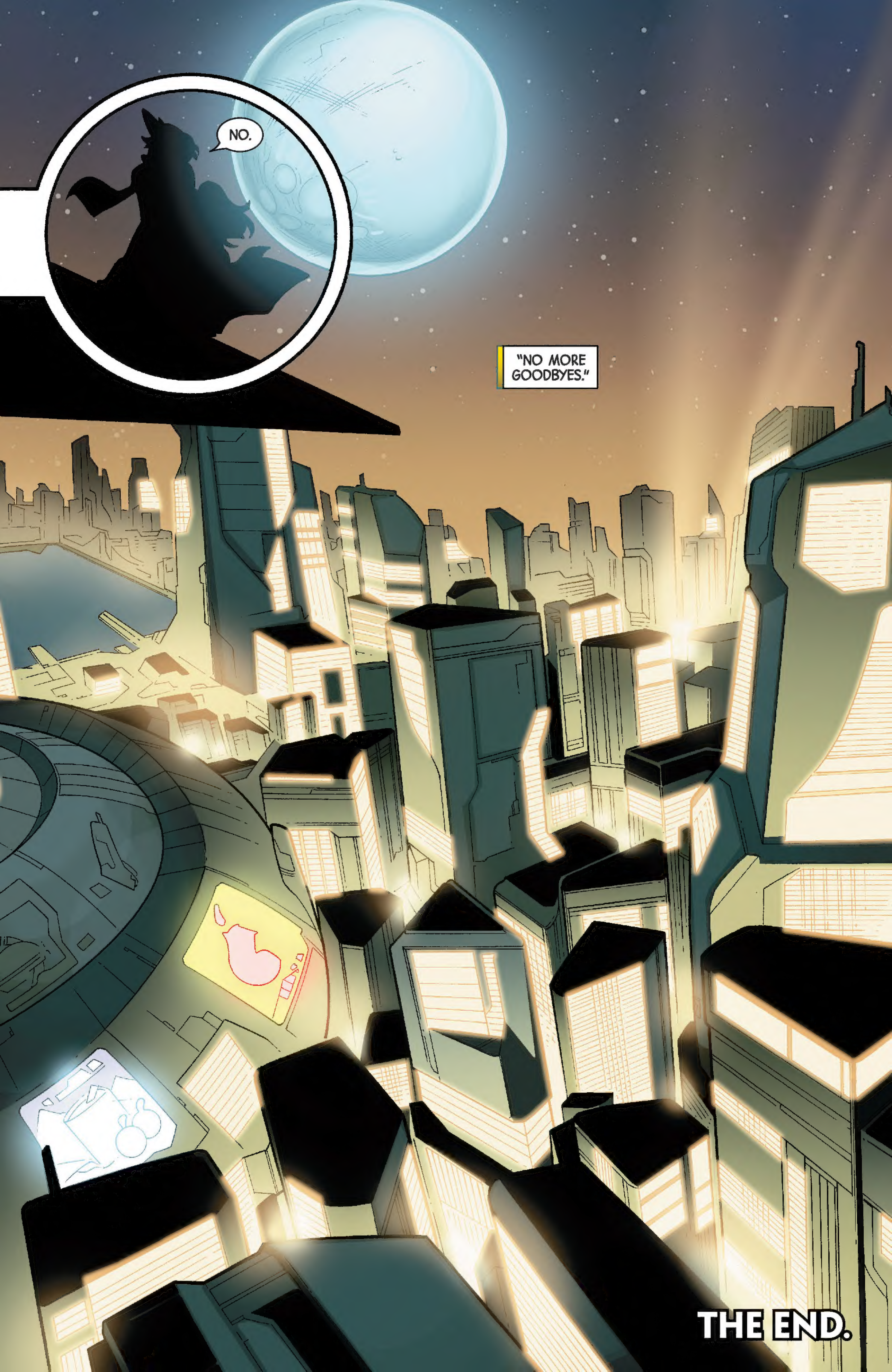

HOW DO YOU FEEL, MOTHE--
I'M SORRY. *AURAN.* HOW DO YOU FEEL?
LIKE...MYSELF. WHICH, CONSIDERING EVERYTHING, IS AN ACHIEVEMENT.


ARE YOU... GOING TO STAY? WE ALREADY ASKED FRANK ABOUT IT, AND HE SAID IT WOULD BE OKAY, IF YOU WANTED TO.
FRANK McGEE IS A GOOD MAN. BUT...I THINK IT WOULD BE STRANGE. I SHOT HIM IN THE STOMACH, REMEMBER? IT MIGHT BE AWKWARD.

SO...WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
I'M ONE PERSON NOW, WHICH IS GOOD--BUT I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHO THAT PERSON IS.

I NEED TO *GET OUT THERE*--MAKE SOME OF MY *OWN* MEMORIES.


SO... I GUESS...WE SHOULD SAY GOODB--


NO.
"NO MORE GOODBYES."
THE END.

NEXT:

IT ALL COMES DOWN TO THIS!
INHUMANS VS. X-MEN #1!

THE SIEGE OF NEW ATTILAN IN
INHUMANS VS. X-MEN #2!

AND MAXIMUS COMPLICATES THINGS
FOR MUTANT AND INHUMAN ALIKE IN
UNCANNY INHUMANS #18!

ZONE